

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the application. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 21-24, 38, and 52-54 and indicating that claims 3-4, 11, 18, and 48-51 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant, however, does not necessarily agree or acquiesce with each statement in the Office action as to why claims 21-24, 38, and 52-54 are allowed or claims 3-4, 11, 18, and 48-51 are allowable. Instead, Applicant respectfully submits that the language within the claims speak for themselves.

Claims 2-8, 10-14, 18-24, 35-38, and 48-54 are now pending in the application.

Claims 3, 11, 18, 48, and 50 have been rewritten in independent form, and, accordingly, claims 3, 11, 18, 48, and 50 (and all dependent claims therefrom) should be in condition for allowance.

In an effort to expedite prosecution and to reduce excess claim fees, Applicant has cancelled independent claims 1, 9, 46, and 47 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. In his November 8, 2005 response, Applicant cancelled claims 39-45 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. In his June 6, 2005 response, Applicant cancelled claims 15-17 and 25-34 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Applicant reserves the right to refile all cancelled claims and contest the rejections thereof in one or more subsequent applications.

Applicant has further amended rejected dependent claims 2, 5-8, 10, 12-14, 19, and 35-37 to change their dependency from cancelled claim 1 or 9 to claim 3, 11, or 18, which have been rewritten into independent form and should now be allowable. Accordingly, claims 2, 5-8, 10, 12, 14, 19, and 35-37 should also now be in condition for allowance.

The claim amendments have rendered moot all of the examiner's rejections to the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections and issue a notice of full allowance for the application.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7502.

Applicant believes that the appropriate fees have been included with this filing. If, however, Applicant owes any additional fee(s), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee(s) to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**. In addition, if there is ever any other fee deficiency or overpayment under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**.

Respectfully submitted,

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